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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. _____

Establishing the Joint Select Committee on the Events and Activities
Surrounding China's Handling of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BARR submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred
to the Committee on _____

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Establishing the Joint Select Committee on the Events and
Activities Surrounding China's Handling of the 2019
Novel Coronavirus.

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring),*

3 **SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT.**

4 There is hereby established in the Senate and the
5 House of Representatives a joint select committee to be
6 known as the “Joint Select Committee on the Events and
7 Activities Surrounding China's Handling of the 2019

1 Novel Coronavirus” (hereafter referred to as the “Joint
2 Select Committee”).

3 **SEC. 2. MEMBERSHIP.**

4 (a) SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Joint Select Committee
6 shall be composed of 20 Members of the House of
7 Representatives and Senate, of whom—

8 (A) 10 shall be Members of the House of
9 Representatives, of whom 5 shall be appointed
10 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives
11 and 5 shall be appointed by the Minority Lead-
12 er of the House of Representatives; and

13 (B) 10 shall be Senators, of whom 5 shall
14 be appointed by the Majority Leader of the
15 Senate and 5 shall be appointed by the Minor-
16 ity Leader of the Senate.

17 (2) TREATMENT OF DELEGATE AND RESIDENT
18 COMMISSIONER.—For purposes of this section, a
19 “Member” of the House of Representatives includes
20 a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Con-
21 gress.

22 (b) CO-CHAIRS.—Two of the members of the Joint
23 Select Committee shall serve as co-chairs of the Joint Se-
24 lect Committee, and shall be appointed as follows:

1 (1) One shall be a Member of the House of
2 Representatives, who shall be appointed as co-chair
3 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives in
4 consultation with the Minority Leader of the House
5 of Representatives.

6 (2) One shall be a Senator, who shall be ap-
7 pointed as co-chair by the Majority Leader of the
8 Senate in consultation with the Minority Leader of
9 the Senate.

10 (c) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the membership of the
11 Joint Select Committee (including a vacancy resulting be-
12 cause a member ceases to be a Member of the House of
13 Representatives or a Senator) shall not affect its powers,
14 and shall be filled not later than 14 calendar days after
15 the date on which the vacancy occurs in the same manner
16 as the original appointment was made.

17 (d) DEADLINES.—Members of the Joint Select Com-
18 mittee and the co-chairs of the Joint Select Committee
19 shall be appointed not later than 14 calendar days after
20 the date of the adoption of this concurrent resolution.

21 **SEC. 3. INVESTIGATION AND REPORT ON THE EVENTS SUR-**
22 **ROUNDING CHINA'S HANDLING OF THE 2019**
23 **NOVEL CORONAVIRUS.**

24 (a) INVESTIGATION AND REPORT.—The Joint Select
25 Committee is authorized and directed to conduct a full and

1 complete investigation of, and to issue a final report to
2 the House of Representatives and Senate regarding, the
3 following:

4 (1) The origins and causes of the 2019 novel
5 coronavirus.

6 (2) All policies, decisions, and activities by
7 China regarding the origins and causes of such
8 coronavirus.

9 (3) All policies, decisions, and activities by
10 China in response to the initial outbreak and spread
11 of such coronavirus.

12 (4) All policies, decisions, and activities by
13 China to suppress facts and information regarding
14 the spread, origins, causes, and transmission of such
15 coronavirus, including efforts to silence those mak-
16 ing early warnings, punish whistleblowers, and re-
17 strict freedom of information about such
18 coronavirus.

19 (5) All policies, decisions, and activities by
20 China to spread misinformation regarding the ori-
21 gins and causes of such coronavirus, including accu-
22 sations and misinformation that the coronavirus was
23 brought to the city of Wuhan by the United States
24 military.

1 (6) All policies, decisions, and activities by
2 China to sideline, deny, and suppress charitable
3 service organizations, institutions of civil society,
4 secular and faith-based non-governmental organiza-
5 tions, international humanitarian organizations, and
6 foreign governments offering to provide information,
7 expertise, resources, and assistance to China and the
8 Chinese people to combat such coronavirus.

9 (7) Accountability for policies, decisions and ac-
10 tivities related to influencing the World Health Or-
11 ganization's response to the outbreak of such
12 coronavirus, including individuals and entities re-
13 sponsible for those policies, decisions, and activities.

14 (8) All policies, decisions, and activities by
15 China to manufacture, produce, procure, possess, or
16 hoard personal protective equipment and critical
17 pharmaceutical components to manipulate or
18 weaponize the supply chain against the international
19 community, including the United States.

20 (9) Vulnerabilities in the United States' domes-
21 tic and global supply chain to combat a global pan-
22 demic due to reliance on Chinese manufacturing and
23 recommendations for decreasing dependence on Chi-
24 nese manufacturing by improving and securing a do-
25 mestic supply chain for antibiotics, viral drugs, crit-

1 ical pharmaceutical components, masks, and other
2 personal protective equipment.

3 (10) Information related to lessons learned
4 from China's handling of such coronavirus.

5 (11) Any other relevant issues relating to Chi-
6 na's actions that led to further spread of such
7 coronavirus, China's response to such coronavirus,
8 or the investigation by the Joint Select Committee
9 into China regarding such coronavirus.

10 (12) Any recommendations to Congress and the
11 executive branch regarding actions the United States
12 government should take in response to China's han-
13 dling of such coronavirus.

14 (b) TRANSFER OF RECORDS.—At the request of the
15 co-chairs of the Joint Select Committee, any standing
16 committee of the Senate or House of Representatives hav-
17 ing custody of records in any form relating to the matters
18 described in subsection (a) shall transfer such records to
19 the Joint Select Committee.

20 (c) INTERIM REPORTS.—In addition to the final re-
21 port issued under subsection (a), the Joint Select Com-
22 mittee may issue such interim reports as it considers nec-
23 essary.

1 (d) CLASSIFIED ANNEX.—The Joint Select Com-
2 mittee may include a classified annex in any report issued
3 under this section.

4 (e) DEFINITIONS.—

5 (1) CHINA.—In this section, the term “China”
6 means the Government of the People’s Republic of
7 China and any of the following:

8 (A) An official of the Chinese Communist
9 Party.

10 (B) An official of the Government of the
11 People’s Republic of China.

12 (C) An agent or instrumentality of the
13 Government of the People’s Republic of China.

14 (D) Any other person owned or controlled
15 by or acting on behalf of any person described
16 in subparagraphs (A) through (C).

17 (2) 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS.—In this sub-
18 section, the term “2019 novel coronavirus” means
19 the coronavirus disease (COVID–19) and severe
20 acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS–
21 CoV–2).

22 **SEC. 4. POWERS.**

23 (a) HEARINGS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.—For the
24 purpose of carrying out its duties, the Joint Select Com-
25 mittee may hold such hearings and undertake such other

1 activities as the Joint Select Committee determines to be
2 necessary to carry out its duties, whether the Congress
3 is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned.

4 (b) **AUTHORITY TO USE SUBPOENAS.**—The Joint Se-
5 lect Committee may require by subpoena the attendance
6 of such witnesses and the production of such books, pa-
7 pers, and documents, as it considers appropriate.

8 (c) **ACCESS TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH SERVICES.**—
9 The Joint Select Committee shall have access to the serv-
10 ices of the Government Accountability Office, the Congres-
11 sional Budget Office, and the Congressional Research
12 Service in the same manner and under the same terms
13 and conditions as any standing committee of the House
14 of Representatives or Senate.

15 (d) **ADOPTION OF RULES.**—Not later than 7 days
16 after all of its members have been appointed, the Joint
17 Select Committee shall adopt rules governing its oper-
18 ations, including rules governing the issuance of sub-
19 poenas and rules governing the use of official funds for
20 travel by members and staff, and shall submit such rules
21 to the Clerk of the House of Representatives and Sec-
22 retary of the Senate for publication in the Congressional
23 Record.

24 **SEC. 5. STAFF; FUNDING.**

25 (a) **STAFF.**—

1 (1) USE OF EXISTING STAFF.—To the greatest
2 extent practicable, the Joint Select Committee shall
3 utilize the services of staff of employing offices of
4 the Senate and House of Representatives.

5 (2) AUTHORITY TO APPOINT STAFF.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—Each of the co-chairs
7 of the Joint Select Committee may appoint,
8 prescribe the duties and responsibilities of, and
9 fix the pay of such staff as the co-chair con-
10 siders appropriate to assist the Joint Select
11 Committee in carrying out its duties, so long as
12 the number of staff appointed by one of the co-
13 chairs does not exceed the number of staff ap-
14 pointed by the other co-chair.

15 (B) DETAIL OF CONGRESSIONAL EMPLOY-
16 EES.—Upon the joint request of the co-chairs,
17 the head of an employing office of the House of
18 Representatives or Senate (including a joint
19 committee of the Congress) is authorized to de-
20 tail, without reimbursement, any of the staff of
21 the office to the Joint Select Committee to as-
22 sist the Joint Select Committee in carrying out
23 its duties.

24 (3) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—Section
25 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946

1 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i)) shall apply with respect to the
2 Joint Select Committee in the same manner as such
3 section applies with respect to a standing committee
4 of the Senate, except that any consultant whose
5 services are procured by the Joint Select Committee
6 shall be selected jointly by the co-chairs of the Joint
7 Select Committee.

8 (b) FUNDING.—

9 (1) VOUCHERS.—Payments for expenses of the
10 Joint Select Committee shall be made using vouch-
11 ers authorized by the Joint Select Committee, signed
12 by co-chairs of the Joint Select Committee, and ap-
13 proved in a manner directed by the Committee on
14 Rules and Administration of the Senate and the
15 Committee on House Administration of the House of
16 Representatives.

17 (2) SOURCE OF FUNDS.—There are authorized
18 to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary
19 for the operation of the Joint Select Committee, of
20 which—

21 (A) 50 percent shall be derived from the
22 applicable accounts of the House of Representa-
23 tives; and

24 (B) 50 percent shall be derived from the
25 contingent fund of the Senate.

1 **SEC. 6. TERMINATION.**

2 (a) **TERMINATION DATE.**—The Joint Select Com-
3 mittee shall terminate 30 days after filing the final report
4 required under section 3.

5 (b) **TRANSFER OF RECORDS.**—Upon termination of
6 the Joint Select Committee, the records of the Joint Select
7 Committee shall be transferred to—

8 (1) such committee or committees of the House
9 of Representatives as may be designated by the
10 Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

11 (2) such committee or committees of the Senate
12 as may be designated by the President pro tempore
13 of the Senate.